

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 576

By Clemmons

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mike Pigott of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Mike Pigott; and

WHEREAS, Mike Pigott was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a former award-winning newspaper reporter, Mr. Pigott was one of the founding partners of the public relations firm McNeely Pigott & Fox, in which position he earned the respect of his clients and his employees for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, a native of Cleveland, Ohio, Mr. Pigott was a graduate of Purdue University and relocated to Nashville in 1976, where he began his career as a staff writer for the *Nashville Banner*; and

WHEREAS, an award-winning investigative and political reporter, Mike Pigott covered several presidential campaigns and a number of other political campaigns and events, including the removal of Governor Ray Blanton and the early swearing-in of Governor Lamar Alexander; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his tremendous talents as a reporter, Mr. Pigott received a number of awards and accolades, including the Malcolm Law Memorial Award for Investigative Reporting in 1977 and 1979, the United Press International Award for Investigative Reporting in 1978, and the United Press International Award for Public Service Reporting in 1980; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, Mike Pigott joined with Mark McNeely, and later David Fox, to establish the public relations firm now known as McNeely Pigott & Fox, which currently employs more than seventy individuals with offices in Texas and Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, the firm's vast client list includes such prominent entities as Nashville Electric Service, Skanska Construction, and the Southeast U.S./Japan Association as well as a number of pro bono, not-for-profit organizations like Hands on Nashville and Safe Haven; and

WHEREAS, admired for his political acumen and remarkable ability for consensus building in the community, Mike Pigott also served as an advisor to the first mayoral campaign of former Nashville Mayor Karl Dean and worked on numerous civic projects, including the downtown arena, the Titans' move to Nashville, Nissan Stadium, and the Country Music Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong member of the Roman Catholic faith, Mr. Pigott was also active in his community, where he served as a volunteer with Hands on Nashville and the YMCA, tutored and mentored children at 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue Missionary Baptist Church, tirelessly supported Safe Haven, and raised more than a quarter million dollars for the American Cancer Society as a founder of the original Swine Ball; and

WHEREAS, a kind and generous man with a tremendous sense of humor, Mike Pigott dearly loved his family and enjoyed traveling the world with them, ballroom dancing with his wife, and watching the Tennessee Titans; and

WHEREAS, a devoted husband and father, Mike Pigott was married to his college sweetheart, Sharon McRedmond Pigott, and was the proud parent of three daughters, Mary Byrne Dailey, Connolly Behr, and Ellen Pigott, and the adoring grandfather of one grandson, Connor Dailey; and

WHEREAS, Mike Pigott leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Mike Pigott, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Pigott.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.